

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 046904
ORIGIN EB-08

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R 231743Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS STATE 046904

E.O. 11652N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AS

SUBJECT: CUSTOMS DUTIES ON IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT

REF: CANBERRA 788

1. CONGRESSMAN TOM FOLEY OF WASHINGTON'S FIFTH DISTRICT HAS REQUESTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROTEST GOA INCREASE IN TARIFF ON SPRINKLERS. WE INFORMED HIM THAT EMBASSY IS FOLLOWING MATTER CLOSELY AND HAS ALREADY MADE KNOWN OUR OPPOSITION TO THIS INCREASE IN PROTECTION.

2. NELSON IRRIGATION UNDERSTANDS SITUATION. THEY SUGGEST EXPLANATION FOR BEHAVIOR OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF REFTTEL MAY BE THAT SOUTHERN CROSS IS MANUFACTURING A PRODUCT WHICH COMPETES WITH ONLY ONE OF THE THREE MODELS OFFERED BY NELSON. THEY HAVE ORDERS FROM SOUTHERN CROSS FOR DELIVERY OF OTHER TWO MODELS THROUGHOUT 1978.

3. IN ADDITON, NELSON HAS SHIPMENTS TO VARIOUS CUSTOMERS
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IN ROUTE TO AUSTRALIA ON WHICH THEY HAVE GUARANTEED THE DELIVERED PRICE. IF TARIFF IS APPLIED NELSON MUST ABSORB THE LOSS. IS IT PRACTICAL TO REQUEST BY-LAW EXEMPTION BE EXTENDED TO COVER ALL PRODUCTS ORDERED PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF BY-LAW BRANCH REVIEW?

4. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS FROM NELSON THEY WILL HAVE

THEIR AGENTS PROTEST THE DECISION. WE RECOMMENDED
THEYDISCUSS SITUATION WITH EMBASSY. VANCE

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